MONTEREY NEWS

December 2015

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The Town

By Jill Pajka

Notes on select board meetings from October 26 to November 16.

A Sound Deal at the Range

On November 2, the select board met with the planning committee and Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus to address two major noise issues affecting the citizens of Monterey. The first issue concerned the firing range on Hupi Road, and whether a noise ordinance would be applicable and operating hours for firearms.

Chief Backhaus explained that firearms are often not included in official noise ordinances, which are primarily designed to regulate noise produced by construction equipment and motorized vehicles. "It's really aimed at machinery, people without mufflers, tractors, other motorized vehicles," he said. "There's an exemption for firing ranges, which in our case, is permitted to operate between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m."

The select board also acknowledged that the noise regulation of the firing range has actually improved in the past month. All members noted that communication with the firing range seemed to result in a reduced amount of noise at certain hours. "There's been no firing on the weekends for the last three weeks," commented select board member Kenn Basler. "because people talked to each other and worked it out."

Defining Noise

While the complaints regarding the firing range may have quieted recently, there are still significant concerns regarding the noise of Hume Lake Christian Camp, also known as Hume New England or "Camp Hume." The 500-acre Christian youth camp and adult retreat center on Chestnut Hill Road is a consistent noise culprit for nearby Monterey residents, especially during the spring and late summer seasons.

Representing affected residents, Maggie Leonard and Bettina Schwartz, who both live in close proximity to the camp, offered their personal accounts of the situation to the select board. On November 2, Leonard and Schwartz reiterated concerns about the frequency and amount of amplified noise heard on their properties, the significant need for sound regulation, and the current lack of communication between the Town of Monterey and Camp Hume's leaders. They cited examples, including loud music, constant announcements via loudspeaker, loudspeaker signals and "system noise," and other program-created noise. Both clarified that they were not concerned with the sounds of the campers but, rather, of the adults who were running the camp in a loud, constant, intrusive manner.

Maureen Banner

The weather not nice enough to meet outside the library for this year's Veterans Day gathering, so they met in the church. See page 7 for George Emmons's brief history on the beginnings of Veterans Day after World War I. From left to right, Julio Rodriquez, Pastor Liz Goodman, Ron Goldfinger, Salley Pullen, Frank D'Amato,Kay Purcell (not visible), Pat Salomon (not visible), Steve Pullen, Larry Klein, George Emmons (front) Michael Banner, Kenn Basler, and Mark Makuc.

Monterey hockey rink assembly

Saturday,December 5, 9:30, a.m. Everyone welcome, no skills necessary. Help welcome in the new skating season.

Leonard described how the camp's location and surrounding landscape amplify the sound because of the location's surroundings and landscape. "If you put your phone in a bowl, it works like a speaker. Hume is a bowl," she explained. "In fact, it's probably louder at my property line than it is for the kids actually inside the camp."

Schwartz, who had researched other towns with similar issues regarding amplified noise, shared findings that some towns do regulate amplified noise. She inquired if Monterey could enforce such regulations in a similar manner.

"At ten decibels above ambient sound, an enforcing officer can ask them [the producer of sound] to reduce/terminate the sound…if you can prove it," said Steve Enoch, citing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Noise Level Policy. The Noise Level Policy is one of the methods that the DEP has for regulating noise. According to the DEP Noise Control Regulation 310 CMR 7.10, "Ambient sound level, measured at the property line of the facility or at the nearest inhabited buildings, shall not be increased by more than ten decibels weighted for the 'A' scale [dB9A0] due to the sound from the facility during its operating hours."

For those curious, ambient sound level—or background sound level—is the level of sound from all sources other than the particular sound of concern. While rarely constant, ambient sound level is defined as the level that is reached 90% of the time that the noise measurements are taken. With this in mind, the select board and the planning committee proposed the possibility of a sound study to obtain a decibel measurement and to further determine if Camp Hume exceeds ten decibels above ambient sound.

The group also considered the criteria for noise as a public health concern, as described by the Noise Pollution Policy of the MassDEP. According to the policy, "Noise is defined as 'sound of sufficient intensity and/or duration as to cause a condition of air pollution.' Additionally, "Air pollution means 'the presence in the ambient air space of one or more air contaminants or combinations thereof in such concentrations and of such duration as to: (a) cause a nuisance; (b) be injurious, or be on the basis of current information, potentially injurious to human health or animal life, to vegetation, or to property; or (c) unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property or the conduct of business." (310 CMR 7.00)

If a particular noise fits these criteria, the DEP, in response to complaints from the public, can then evaluate how noise affects people. However, while Monterey's specific issue with the amplified sounds produced by Camp Hume could be considered nuisance noise, typically religious organizations—which Camp Hume is considered—are exempt. Furthermore, many outdoor camps have permits for their property. It is undetermined whether Camp Hume has these permits.

Following this discussion, the select board agreed to draft a letter to the camp citing the unsatisfactory regulation of noise during the past summer, and offering to open a dialogue to understand the camp's regulations and requirements for noise. On November 16, select board member Steve Weisz had the draft letter ready to send to Camp Hume the coming week.

School or Community Center?

Late last month, members of the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House, Inc. (FWMH) attended the select board meeting to support select board member's Steve Weisz's letter to the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. The letter proposes that if the property known as "Bally Gally" be sold, the net proceeds of the sale be divided equally between the Town of Monterey and the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. If this deal were allowed, the funds granted to Monterey would then enable the town to finish construction on the Monterey Community Center, as well as help pay for future operating costs of the center. Of course, the board agreed that if the Berkshire Taconic Foundation opposes this proposition and instead wishes to keep all monies for the scholarship fund, the town would not put the Bally Gally property up for sale.

This month, the select board was still discussing the will and potential sale of Bally Gally, but with several new notions for the FWMH to consider. "Just because we have the right to sell it, doesn't mean we have to," said select board member Scott Jenssen, regarding Bally Gally. The group discussed a previously considered possibility to have Bally Gally become the location for the Monterey School program, in light of the issues with the school's current building. The select board and several FWMH members seemed mixed on the idea.

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"Bally Gally is a split-level house," said select board member Steve Weisz. "You can't build a school in a split-level; the community center is better for a school location." The select board and FWMH began to eagerly discuss the possibility of moving the Monterey School program to the future renovated Monterey Community Center. "There's been a lot of push back against the community center," said Jenssen. "But I think rethinking its use with the idea of a school would make more sense."

The group continued to offer opinions on ways the school program and its students could benefit by being in the community center, as well as what it would mean to not need to sell the Bally Gally property. Kenn Basler agreed, "There'd be a place for the bus to stop or [for kids to] get dropped off, to wait for their parents in town. It's just a safe place."

With a strategy for the three properties and school program on the horizon, the select board discussed plans to appraise the Bally Gally property and the Monterey School building. Tim Lovett, who was originally sought out for his appraising services, suggested that the buildings be appraised by a professional appraiser who has experience with municipal buildings. Following an appraisal, the board is hoping that the building currently used by the Monterey School can be sold too. The money from the sale of the building, instead of the money from Bally Gally, could be used to finish construction on the community center.

In the weeks ahead, the town can look forward to the community center lease to be signed and the plans for Bally Gally, the Monterey School program, the school building, and the community center to take form.

Emergency Preparedness

On November 9, the select board responded to an inquiry on how, as a citizen of Monterey, one could get involved in emergency preparedness. "If you're interested in helping, either to inform or participate during actual emergencies to some degree, as a citizen but not an officer of the town, I would contact Chief Tryon and Chief Backhaus," offered select board member Scott Jenssen. Emergency protocol is determined by Monterey's emergency preparedness chiefs: Fire Chief Shawn Tryon and Police Chief Gareth Backhaus. "From there," he explained, "the select board would authorize the town to go into 'emergency mode' at the request of one or two of those [the chiefs], or the state will determine an emergency decree such as 'no traffic, blizzard coming.' There are then certain mechanisms that are employed to make those plans function."

The board encouraged the inquirer, and all others interested in assisting in emergency preparedness, to reach out to the chiefs. This could include bringing items to present regarding protocol, plans, or ideas. The board also advised the inquirer to contact Kay Purcell of the Council on Aging, whom they thought might greatly appreciate help in raising awareness and offering assistance in emergency situations.

Select board member Kenn Basler advocated for having more information about emergency preparedness in the *Monterey News* and considered how it could be significantly helpful to have emergency information accessible to the people of Monterey.

"The more information people see on a regular basis, the simpler it becomes for them to actually realize that this is important," agreed Jenssen.

Enhancing Town Security

Select board member Steve Weisz requested that Police Chief Gareth Backhaus obtain an estimate for three security/surveillance cameras for town hall. The cameras would be placed at the main town hall entrance, the front meeting room, behind the building, and around the playground area. Supporting the proposal, the chief agreed to investigate available grant monies for this project.

Monterey has also acquired a new police cruiser for the Monterey Police Station (see a photo on page 26). The vehicle's five-year warranty and enhanced quality gives the select board hope that the town may not need to replace police cruisers as frequently in the future. There are now three cruisers available for the police to utilize—so keep an eye out!

4 Elements:
earth fire water air
winter community exhibition

Opening Reception:
Friday, Dec. 4, 6-7:30 pm

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Holiday Sale
December 5
11AM - 4PM
Knox Gallery in the Monterey Library

Earrings
Baskets
Pottery
Fiber Art

Joe Baker bakerworks.com
Julie Shapiro julieshapiroart.com
MaryPaul Yates yatesdesign.net
Ellen Grenadier grenadierpottery.com
Wendy Jensen wendygjensenbaskets.com
Maureen & Michael Banner mmbanner.com

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- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Invasive Plant Management

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
tcoote@simons-rock.edu

Zoning Proposal
Secondary Dwelling Units

The Monterey Planning Board has been working on a zoning bylaw proposal for the past several months that would allow homeowners, with a minimum of two acres of land and 200 feet of road frontage, to build a smaller, secondary dwelling unit adjacent to their primary dwelling unit. A public hearing to review the proposed secondary dwelling unit (SDU) zoning bylaw proposal will be held on Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the town hall.

Secondary dwelling units (also known as accessory dwelling units) can provide homeowners with a means of obtaining companionship, services, and rental income. SDUs meet the needs of smaller households and protect the residential character of the neighborhood. Allowing SDUs in Monterey may not meet the state criteria for affordable housing, but SDUs can provide more choices to the current housing and rental options available.

A brief sketch of the SDU zoning bylaw: an SDU requires a minimum of two acres and 200 feet of road frontage; an SDU cannot exceed 800 square feet in gross floor area; an SDU must be located within 100 feet of the primary dwelling unit (PDU). The planning board seeks to minimize impacts on abutters by keeping the units small, requiring that the SDU be proximate to the primary dwelling unit, and allowing only one of the units on the property be rented. Requiring the SDU to be proximate to the primary dwelling helps to concentrate the housing density, and maintains the two-acre zoning character.

The fact that there are already many (mostly hidden) examples of secondary dwelling units throughout Monterey was another reason the planning board decided to take on the SDU bylaw proposal. Small apartments or studios above barns and garages, small studios adjacent to houses, long breezeways that lead to another smaller "wing" of a house—it's obvious that people in Monterey use these structures and benefit from having them. This bylaw would allow the existing uses to become legal and provide homeowners with additional options for their property.

Please join the planning board to review and discuss the secondary dwelling unit bylaw proposal on Thursday December 10, at 7 p.m., at the town hall.

—Maggie Leonard, co-chair
Monterey Planning Board

Lake Preservation District
Organizational Meeting

The meeting will be held on December 12, at 10 a.m., in the church basement. This meeting will explore the possibility of creating a preservation district to support the health of the lake. The stakeholders include approximately ninety-one lakefront homes and seventy-six homes with deeded lake access to Lake Garfield.

For more information, a copy of the proposed act, supporting documents, and updates, go to LakeGarfieldMA.com. You can also visit the Lake Garfield facebook page, and, by all means, join us at the meeting on December 12. If you can't attend the meeting, we will be attempting a webcast of the meeting. If you'd like to access the webcast, send an email to rosenhy@gmail.com for the link and instructions. Contact Michael if you have questions after the meeting.

One last request: If you are a stakeholder, please send your email address, mailing address(es), and phone number(s) to Michael.Germain@baystatehealth.org so we can keep you informed and updated on important information and meeting times.

—Michael Germain & Hy Rosen
For the Friends of Lake Garfield

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Monterey Library News

Those of you who knew the *Virtual Catalog*, which was the last catalog you could search and order items from, will be sad to see that it has officially closed. It opened up other libraries across the state to everyone, and, most importantly ,you could search it directly. The reason the Virtual Catalog was shut down was because they have finally developed a new platform for that same purpose. It is called Commonwealth Catalog, or ComCat in library lingo.

You should still begin searching for an item through CWMARS. But if the item you're looking for isn't available in central or western Massachusetts, ComCat will take you into library and information resources throughout the state.

Commonwealthcatalog.org/mvc is the link that will get you there. To be able to use it, you will need a valid CWMARS (or other Massachusetts network) card. Searching is much easier than it was with the Virtual Catalog, and you will see the selections in a much more friendly presentation. To log in and order anything, you'll need to select your library, put in your barcode number, and verify it with either a PIN or your last name (this function doesn't work yet so it don't think too hard about what it might be). If the item you are requesting is available locally (through CWMARS), the ComCat will tell you that and not allow you to order that item. So you really do need to check the CWMARS catalog first. However, if it isn't available through CWMARS you'll need to fill in a pickup location and your name, and the item will be sent to the library for you to pick up. With the millions of items available from CWMARS, you won't need to use this service every time you can't find an item in the Monterey Library, but if you can't find it in central and western Massachusetts you can now look for yourself in the whole state.

Come to the library if you have any questions or would just like us to help you get into this catalog. It is so much easier and user-friendly than the Virtual Catalog was. Of course, if you can't find what you want in the Commonwealth Catalog you should ask the librarian. We have one other recourse, an interlibrary loan system that is from library-to-library. There will still be things we can't get, but that mediated ILL goes across the United States. Let us know what we can get for you!

—Mark Makuc
Monterey Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monterey Community Center News

As 2015 comes to a close, we are astounded by the support we have received from our community this year. With your donations and participation in our tag sale and at Octoberfest, we have been able to accomplish a great deal.

At this time a year ago, the Wilson McLaughlin House was a post-and-beam frame wrapped in blue tarps, with a good roof. Now take a look—tightly insulated walls are up, new energy-efficient windows are in, roofs and basement have been insulated with high-density foam, the electric service is in place with rough wiring done, the rough plumbing is done, and the new entryway is built and enclosed. The most recent work is the spray foam insulation, for which we hired CorrectEnergySprayFoam.com, and they not only did a splendid job but also donated more than one-quarter of the cost.

We will proceed with interior work in the house during the winter, as funding permits. At this point we are about $40,000 short of what we'll need to complete the renovation work. See ccmonterey.org for more details and contribution information.

Thank you again for your contributions to this project.

—Joe Baker,
Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

Woodruff Mountain
Landscaping
Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.
Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
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Veterans Day in Monterey
A Brief History

What follows are comments George Emmons made at this year's Veterans Day memorial gathering.

Almost one hundred years ago, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the armistice was signed on the western front of World War I, in which twenty million people had died. The first celebration was in 1929 at Buckingham Castle to honor servicemen killed in the war. The ceremony included two minutes of silence—the first minute for those killed, and the second for those they left behind, men, women, and children, who I include in my short history of what has now become Veterans Day, both for the living and dead.

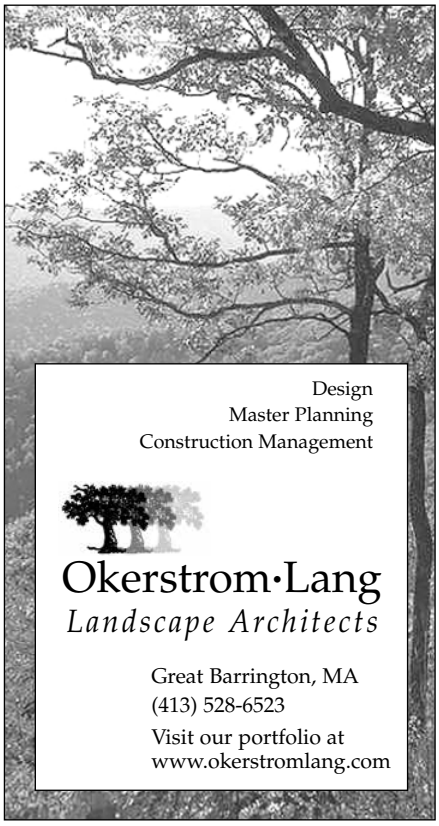
World War I trench warfare saw the use of barbed wire, machine guns, tanks, poison gas, and aerial warfare with incendiary bombs. We won a "war to end all wars," but lost the subsequent peace because of harsh and unrealistic terms of surrender, which left Europe vulnerable to invasion after less than twenty-five years of peace.

There are twenty names of Monterey veterans on the roll of honor outside the library which was dedicated on July 4, 1932, presided over by Reverend Abercrombie. (See the program of the ceremony on page 7.) Children of the veterans whose names are familiar to many of us here today performed the unveiling.

- Wallace Tryon, father of Ray Tryon and grandfather of Shawn Tryon;
- Delmore Tryon, father of Dick Tryon and grandfather of Roger Tryon;
- Clinton Keyes, great uncle of Bonner McAllester;
- Charles and Herbert Enoe;
- And others, Brett, Twing, Rogers, Benedict, Smith, and Thompson.

We have learned the hard way to use caution before entering a war that can escalate into a world war. As in the aftermath of World War I, we also need to focus more on keeping a meaningful and lasting peace by better understanding other cultures, religions, traditions, and governments of those we were forced to fight. Only in this way can we fully honor the sacrifices of our veterans and the families they left behind, especially children who inherited their legacy.

—George B. Emmons



Monterey, Massachusetts

JULY 4th 1932

Unveiling of the Roll of Honor of Veterans of the World War

Hymn

AMERICA

My country. 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

Our fathers' God to thee,
Author of Liberty,
To thee we sing-
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

By Sunday School Children and Assembly

Lead by MRS. H. B. SMITH

Address

Selectman RUFUS BRETT

Unveiling of the Roll of Honor by the Children of the Veterans

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's
last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so
gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs
bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our
flag was still there.
O say does that Star-Spangled banner yet
wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of
the brave?

by Assembly

Presentation of Marker to the Town of Monterey

MRS. HENRY W. EATON

Acceptance for the Town

Selectman H. PERRY FARGO

Prayer and Benediction

REVEREND R. H. ABERCROMBIE

Peter Hagen, Printer, Great Barrington, Mass.

P.O. Box 9

We Will Miss Monterey

Why couldn't it have been a miserable, rainy, gloomy weekend, our last in Monterey?

Instead, when we arrived late Saturday night the sky had ordered extra stars, XXL size. The moon was almost full. Indian Cave Lodge, even deprived of most of her furnishings, was welcoming.

Sunday morning, the east side of Lake Garfield was intense red, and the water that particular gray that anticipates ice.

We worked all day Sunday to prepare for the house sale. At 4:30, the lake and sky were rose colored. Moments later at the top of Eaton Road, with the last load of bedding for Construct, the local shelter, we could see the sky was on an LSD trip: blazing orange, yellow, red, framed water blue below, white above. Through the trees along Main Road a smokeless sky fire raged beyond the leafless trees.

We will miss Monterey. Miss the general store, Beth, Scott, and Scott's incomparable croissants. Miss Tim Lovett of Berkshire Property Agents. Why, oh why, did you do such a marvelous job? The honor cash box and the baby goats at Rawson Brook Farm. The library where there's always a must-read book one's never heard of.

It's hard to leave. The police, fire department, and Mike Mielke who show up with a smile each and every time the smoke alarm goes off. The kayakers paddling by at 6 a.m., just before full consciousness. Even the canada geese. Especially the great blue heron who loves the northeast corner of our float.

We are not quite out completely but already are nostalgic for Monterey.

—Maury Mandel and Ina Lee Selden
55 Eaton Road

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Meetinghouse News

Christmas Eve Service

The church will hold a Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on Thursday, December 24, at 7 p.m. As every year, it will last about forty-five minutes and is the perfect sort of service for children. But non-children are welcome too! And whether you yourself celebrate Christmas or not, it's a lovely way to keep warm on what's usually a cold night and to gather with neighbors for whom this might be one of the most important days of the year.

Once, in a casual, interfaith conversation I listened in on when I was in divinity school, a rabbi noted that children know how to celebrate someone else's birthday. Why not expect the same from grown-ups?

Every year, as the sanctuary fills with Christians and non-Christians alike, I personally feel so blessed that people for whom this holiday is otherwise not that important come to celebrate perhaps simply because it's important to someone they care about.

That this town is filled with people who can celebrate someone else's birthday: now that's as good a Christmas gift as ever I receive!

Capital Campaign Final Appeal

We at the church are coming to the end of our capital campaign. As you might have noticed, we've completed much of the work—or at least the most obvious of it. The church has been painted; the access ramp and door have been repaired. There are still a few projects, most notably the front few steps that need rebuilding, beaten as they often are by snowplows.

We also haven't quite finished our fundraising. We've raised $50,806, which is about two-thirds of our $75,000 goal. Many of you have been generous already, and we thank you for that. If, however, you've been meaning to contribute and haven't for whatever reason, please consider doing so now.

As I've written in the past, this building is an essential part of the charm of Monterey. But it's not just a pretty face. It's also home to many activities, meetings, and celebrations for townspeople. Of course, the church members are the people who most frequently use it and who take responsibility for it. But, small as that membership is (and always has been), we need help from non-members as well.

So, if you appreciate the building—its presence, its availability for use, its promise for sanctuary and peaceful reflection—please consider giving generously to this campaign. We've have gifts in the thousands, in the hundreds, in the tens. For those, we thank the donors. Now we also look to those who have yet to give. Perhaps that's you? If so, please send a check to the Monterey UCC, with a note in the memo line that this is for the capital campaign, and address it to PO Box 182, Monterey MA 01245. Thank you!

—Pastor Liz Goodman

cewas Middle East

Environmental Entrepreneurs

Lillian Volat, a Great Barrington native who has been living in Palestine since 2011, will present "Water and Entrepreneurship in Palestine" on Thursday, December 17, at 7 p.m., at the Friends Meeting House, 280 State Street (Route 23) in Great Barrington. She is the director of a startup program called cewas Middle East, which helps young entrepreneurs in Palestine address environmental challenges. Join us for a lively discussion on the work of cewas Middle East, a training program for young Palestinian entrepreneurs in sustainable water, sanitation, and resource management.

For more information on cewas programs internationally, go to cewas.org .

Free admission, donations will be accepted. Sponsored by Cafe Palestina.

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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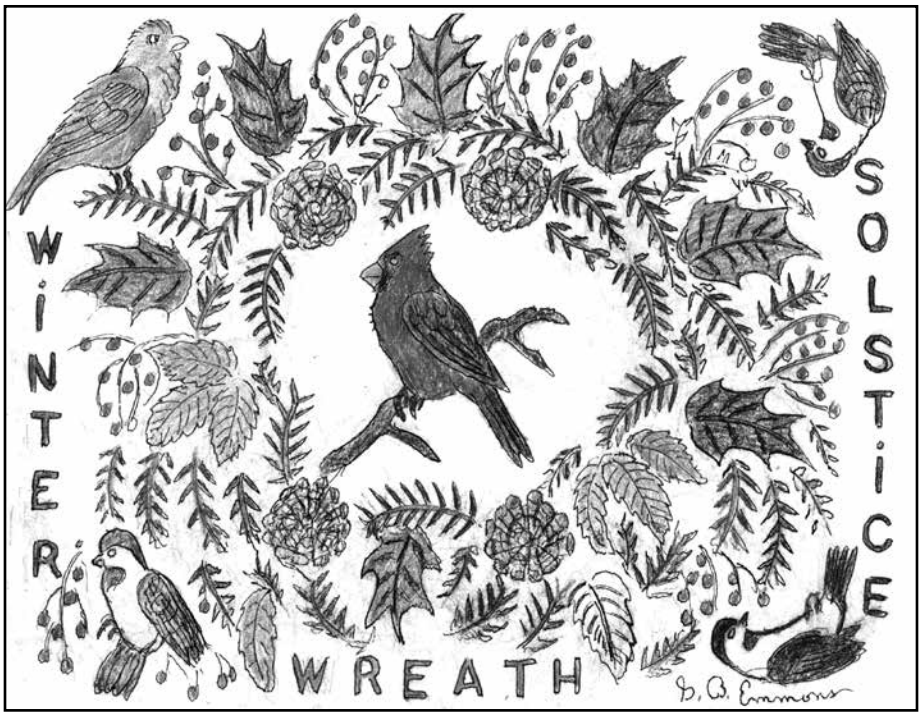
Winter Solstice Wreath



Harvest wreaths are a common household decoration everywhere you go. They have ancient roots in Europe, with the earliest on record of Etruscan origin in 400 BC, decorated with ivy leaves and berries. In Greek and Roman times, wreath designs were copied to make medallions and jewelry with ivy, oak, olive, myrtle, laurel, and wheat motifs. Wreaths were also worn as crowns by rulers, and as adornment to represent a person's occupation, rank, achievements, and status in society and government. Laurel wreaths referencing the Greek myth of Apollo were used to crown athletes at the original Olympic games and are today as well.

Harvest wreaths were important symbols to farmers in Poland, the Ukraine, Hungary, and other eastern cultures where they used grain plants, fruit, and nuts. They were seen as protection against crop failure and were brought to the church to be blessed by a priest. The there would be a procession with a young girl or woman holding the wreath. This ritual for pre-Christian agricultural wreaths was also associated with animistic spiritual beliefs, as well as with plants thought to have mystical powers to ward off evil and heal the sick. For example, the use of oak leaves represented wisdom, and rosemary was believed to improve memory.

Astronomical events during neolithic times were often used to guide activities such as the breeding of animals, sewing crops, and planning winter reserves of food. The layouts of Bronze Age archeological sites such as Stonehenge, England, show the great trilithons (two vertical stones capped with one horizontal stone) were built outwards from the center of the monument toward the winter sun and carefully aligned to point to the winter solstice sunrise, attesting to the early significance of astronomical events. This is also true at Newgrange in Ireland where they were economically dependent on their ability to monitor the progress of the seasons, before the "famine months" of deep winter began.

The word *solstice* means "when the sun stands still." The solstice is seen as the reversal of the sun's ebbing presence in the sky. The cyclical Gregorian calendar celebrated the solstice as "the year reborn." Today ancient beliefs and wreaths have evolved over the centuries into symbols to express emotional meanings and messages, with floral decorations, particularly when true feelings cannot be expressed openly, especially during the Christmas holiday. Among the Scandinavian and Germanic people of northern Europe, the winter solstice was a holiday called Yule, from which many Christmas traditions, such as the Christmas wreath, the Christmas tree, the Yule log, and others, are descended.

Perhaps taking artistic license, I have illustrated with my drawing for this article a design that might be appropriate for a wreath celebrating the winter solstice, this year on December 22. May this get us into the festive decorating holiday mood from the celestial station in the heavens that, a few days after, will be followed by a star over Bethlehem.

Happy Solstice and Merry Christmas.

—George Emmons

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From the Meetinghouse
Meeting Under the Open Sky

Early last month a small, mixed flock gathered outdoors for the first—perhaps annual—Meetinghouse-sponsored blessing for the well-being of the animals. Some folks believe the turn-about's only fitting ,since animals bless us with their presence in our lives and some of them, our pets and some domesticated companions from barnyard and stable, gift us with their love and loyalty. Bonnie, the cairn terrier in the photo, lives in New Hampshire. She traveled the farthest distance to participate in the service. Steve and Sally Pullen's dog, Willy, traveled just a short way east along Main Road to get there. Less than delighted with the to-do all around him, Willy spent the whole time in Steve's arms, far above the madding crowd on the grass.

Animals present at the blessing also included Amari (Tom & Linda Savage's cat); Cherry (Jenny Daily & Susan Quinn's dog); Gus, Daisy, and Brigitta (Liz, Jesse, Toby, and Jack Goodman's pups); Cinnamon (Madeline Rundle's hamster) who came with Maria, Nathaniel, Madeline, Sonya and Henry Rundle; Templeton, Ratley, Justin, and Pancake (Stephanie Nesbitt's pet rats); Bernie, one of Gould Farm's cows, and a chicken, name unknown, also from Gould Farm.

Buzz Herbert

Buzz Herbert took this photo of Bonnie being blessed by Pastor Liz Goodman during the Monterey Church outdoor "Blessing of the Animals" early in November. Bonnie belongs to Buzz and his wife, Penny.

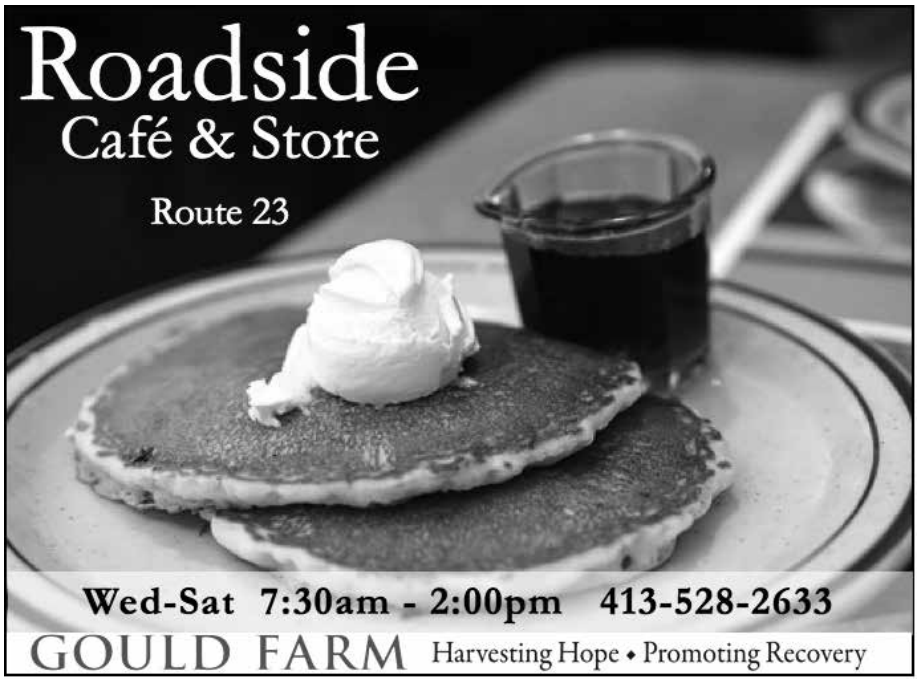
"Watching the rats was fascinating," Liz said later. "They were so curious, reaching out with their eyes and whiskers to investigate everything!"

Those remembered but not present included Taffy (Dick & Barbara Tryon's golden retriever), Judge (Hannah Fries and Adam Brown's dog); Cosmo (Jane Lindsey's Tibetan terrier), and a dog who is ill, mentioned by the Pullens.

The service also included a skit. Presented by the kids who attend the Monterey Church, it featured light sabers and recapped the Noah's Ark story. Patty Fox and Eric Martin prepared and provided music. Church member Susan Quinn organized the event.

Contact Liz Goodman if you want to be notified when another animal blessing is in the works. That way you and your cherished pets, barnyard crittters, or other animals can save the date. And, if we do this again, fear not: we'll try to have it earlier in the year than November.

—Mary Kate Jordan



P.O. Box 9
Beaver Trapping

I would like to thank Shawn Tryon and Kenn Basler for meeting with Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions and me on a frozen February morning last winter to assist in stopping the cruelty I witnessed on Brewers Pond. A trapper was using a conibear trap, a cruel device when set for beavers. The trap is not discriminating, as it often traps dogs, cats, hawks, herons, otters, and other creatures. According to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "Trapping has never managed beaver population in Massachucetts and never will. Lethal management can stimulate population growth and cause earlier sexual maturation. Beavers are territorial, so they will not populate beyond available territory and beaver reproduction is self regulating…it does not exceed food supply."

Native Americans called beavers the "sacred center" of the land because they create such rich water habitat for other creatures, including mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds, ducks, and people, as they create ecosystems that purify the water, filtering out toxins, and thus creating cleaner water downstream. A Native American word meaning "beaver-like" also means affable. Dr. Donald Griffen, the father of animal cognition, states, "When we think of the kinds of animal behaviors that suggest conscious thinking, the beaver comes naturally to mind." Wildlife rehabilitators find beavers to be gentle, reasoning beings that enjoy playing practical jokes.

Bob Theiriot left an environmental endowment to the town of Monterey. There is grant money available for beaver deceivers, pipes that divert the sound of running water that attracts beavers and results in the building of dams. If the town stopped the cruel trapping, it would be entitled to receive grant money. According to the MSPCA police, by law the traps must be checked every twenty-four hours.

For further information, PBS has a wonderful documentary on beavers (search for "PBS beavers video"). You can also go to beaversww.org or mspca.org/animal_protection/about-beavers.

—Alice Berke

ॐ

A Monterey Dog Park

Several dog owners are focused on reviving support for a dog park here in Monterey. Our dogs need a place to run freely, to socialize with other dogs, to learn what they need to learn from their own species. And we, the dog owners, need to bring our dogs to a place where they and we can socialize, exchange information and insights about our pets, and exercise with them safe from cars and trucks. A dog park would help us be outside with them and with each other. Town land is likely to be made available, if there is sufficient interest and support.

A small group of us have been researching the ways communities run safe and useful dog parks. But we need to have your support by year's end. If you are seeking the benefits of a dog park for yourself or your dog, please send notice of your interest to drpatsalomon@aol.com or call, 644-9438.

—Pat Salomon, MD

Life in Monterey
Old Films Festival

I am thinking of coordinating a film festival of old home movies of Monterey. The films should depict life in the town (preferably downtown) and be at least thirty years old. The older, the better.

The film owner should contact me with the following information:

- Date of your film(s)
- Places depicted
- Film Type (16mm, Super 8, 8mm, Video Tape, DVD, Digital or Slides),
- Whether you have a working projector for your film or other types

I hope to show these films in January or February. Location TBD.

—Steven Weisz
steve@montereyma.gov

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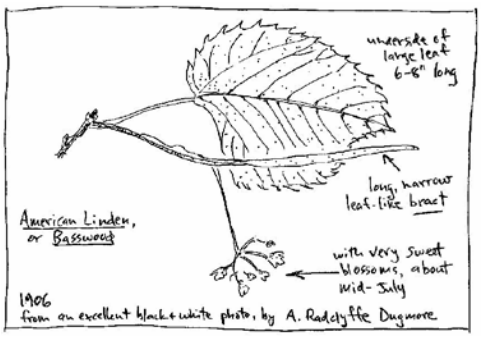
Linden, Lime
and the Basswood Bee Tree

There was a famous old tree in Württemburg, in Germany. It is known by some as the Neustadt Linden, and lived almost one thousand years. Its crown was over a hundred feet across, its trunk forty-two feet around, and in its old age its huge horizontal branches were supported by nearly two hundred masonry columns. This phenomenal tree sheltered a place where judicial decisions and pronouncements were made. My favorite writer about trees, Julia Ellen Rogers, called it a "temple of justice," of the Middle Ages. (*The New Nature Library*, Doubleday, 1905, p. 394.)

We have our lindens here in the New World, too, with their own great trunks, heart-shaped leaves, and importance to the land community. They even have a mythology, at least to me. My dad grew up on Linden Street, in Everett, Massachusetts. All his tales of childhood in that big lively McAllester family are set in "the house on Linden Street." I knew it was some kind of tree, but not one I'd ever seen. There was the tale of my father's next older brother Roddy clambering up the big trees in the yard and swinging from one to another around and around a group of four or five. He had to get that first one swaying, once he was high up it, and then keep leaping and swaying. This heroic picture of my athletic uncle carries also the awful coda of the admiring neighbor boy who climbed up to do the same and fell to his death. Roddy was forbidden to swing around the trees after that. The legend was only the stronger, for me.

Sometime along the way, I came to know the "basswood," another tree not so common in the woods I knew. It was years later that I learned this was one name for the very same linden of legend, of Linden Street. Then I made it to Europe in student days and there in England was a great large tree called a "lime"! This was no orchard citrus tree, but the same linden or basswood. And now, right here in Monterey, I find the basswood again, both in the woods and in the education I have been enjoying, thanks to porcupines in my life.


underside of large leaf 6-8" long
long, narrow leaf-like bract
American Linden, or Basswood
with very sweet blossoms, about mid-July
1906
from an excellent black+white photo, by A. Radclyffe Dugmore

I read that the linden is the number one favorite browsing tree for our porcupines, and that they climb way up to the generous crown where they will stay for some time, biting off the ends of branches in order to hold them and nibble carefully the leaf blades before dropping the twigs. These are called "niptwigs" and the ground under any porcupine food tree can be littered with them. The porcupine only eats the leaf-blade, or the papery part of the leaf, not the petiole or stem. Uldis Roze, my new best friend in porcupine literature, analyzed the parts of the leaves and found that the blade provides far more protein than the petioles—13.1% as compared with 4.6%. When you are bulking up with the summer bounty, you can't afford to spend time on petioles. Once the leaves have fallen and winter sets in, you'll have to make do with the much less nutritious bark. You will lose weight, but you'll make it if you have basswoods in your woods.

In the Catskills, where Uldis Roze does his porcupine research, lindens (as he calls them) are not so common. Only one tree out of a hundred is a linden. From midsummer on, the lindens where he studies on Vly Mountain are the most important food species. Porcupines are most active at night and head up these trees in the dark. The bark is deeply furrowed, making good purchase for the claws and textured soles of the porcupine's feet. There are, in the Catskills, four kinds of caterpillars also eating basswood leaves. Some roll up in a leaf. Porcupines are vegetarian, but Roze thinks it likely they also gobble down caterpillars in the dark and makes the point that these are a good source of sodium. Porcupines are well-known salt seekers, often causing considerable damage to salty wood such as the handles on tools stored in open sheds, and the seats of wooden outhouses.

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Most of the big trees in our woods are wind pollinated. For them, success depends upon close proximity to other trees of the same species. The less common basswoods are unusual in that they have sweet blossoms and attract many insects, especially bees, which can carry pollen some distance, right to the next sweet tree. Back in July I got a note from a friend about trees full of bees near his house on New Marlboro Road. A few days later I went to check, but the flowers had gone by and I'd missed the bees. Two women came walking along and told me they'd certainly noticed all the bees on their daily walks there. You could hear them, they said. I had binoculars and I looked way up to spot the wonderful, unusual arrangement of basswood flowers. They jut out on a stem from the middle of a "leaf" which is more properly called a "bract" but looks like a long, slim, green leaf. These are quite different from the actual leaves, which are big and heart-shaped.

Honey from basswoods is pale and delicious. The trees often grow in groups or clumps, with four or five close together, maybe like the ones in the legend of my uncle Roddy and his terrible dangerous swinging. Still, they are rare in our woods. We have one persistently growing close to where we park our car. We cut it down, it comes up again. One day it will succeed, I bet, and the porcupines can walk down from the orchard after a sweet apple feast and get good protein from the basswood, maybe some sodium from its caterpillars.

Then, in another thousand years, folks in these parts will make wise decisions beneath the Hupi Linden.

— Bonner McAllester

Bernard Casey

Wendy Benjamin and Mayra Rodriquez, not outside Pittsfield City Hall in October.

Mayra and Wendy—Married!

Their time to marry finally came. They've been together twenty-five years. Both are now retired and they've moved permanently to Monterey. Many of you may have assumed that they were already married, but they officially tied the knot on October 9, 2015, at City Hall, in Pittsfield. Of course their son, Alex, was there and thrilled with their decision. They've touched many lives here in Monterey already, and brought many benefits to our community. We wish them the very best of luck and love. Good luck, girls.

— Carol Husten

Community Potluck Dec. 16

Mark Caldwell, Jazz Guitarist

At the November potluck, almost everyone in Monterey missed one of the best speakers we've ever had. Tim Purinton, the director of ecological restoration at the Department of Fish and Game, spoke knowledgeably and eloquently about restoration of wetlands and rivers in Massachusetts, and was extremely well received and appreciated.

For the December potluck, we are thrilled to present acclaimed local jazz guitarist Mark Caldwell, master of finely crafted lyrics, sophisticated harmonies, singing blues to bossa nova. Mark was a regular performer at Kenn's store on music nights.

Our next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, December 16, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Kyle Pierce

Paradox

By some foolish notion, I have arrived
At this point of wisdom.
By some mistake, I have reached
Perfection.
By sinning too many times,
I have become
A holy man.
Strange how our contradictions
Make us more credibly human
And how the paradoxes of our lives
Teach us to be simple, and patient.

— Daniel Senser

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Our Stars, Ourselves,
Our Dogs—Unleashed

A waning crescent moon casts dull light as if powered by nearly dead batteries—barely enough light to make heads or tails of the two heads and one tail toiling along the frozen, deep-rutted roadside at 10 p.m. on a week night.

It's a quiet, ancient evening, and crude words about bowel movements would seem a violation of something sacred. But here goes nothing:

"Come on: poop!"

The command translates into cold puffs of disintegrating vapor. If ash trees could say "shhh!" they would. But they can't, which is good because I'm in no mood for sanctimonious trees.

The tail belongs to a dog that presumably has to poop, but won't. Or can't. He's befuddled. We both are. This is fairly new to us—these late-night leashed excursions along the guardrail by our house.

Here we are, the two of us. He used to be a dog we could let out untethered. He'd do what he does, and he'd come back when called. For reasons maybe only the whispers of an ancient evening can explain, he has taken to running from home and not returning on his own recognizance.

"*Just poop* and be done with it!"

It's cold. An all-star cast of constellations has arranged itself like Christmas lights entangled in the shrubbery of the cosmos. Look at all that—this huge, magnificent, expanding universe, speeding silently into the unknown and unknowable. We're but a fleck of a flick, aren't we? What does it all mean? How did it all begin?

Excuse me for a second.

"Go poop!"

He used to stay put on the property. He'd snooze on the front porch. Or chew a stick on the hill. Or admire earlier bowel movements. He'd exercise himself by doing laps around the house. Or not. He was there, within the boundaries, without us having to think twice. He'd push himself up with an *oomph* and set himself back down with a *harrumph*.

We cased the roads by car. I found him trotting on Main Road heading east. He had a crazy grin.

Jeez, will you look at that sky. You can see the Milky Way. String theorists believe there's more than one universe. Did you know that? What the heck does that mean?

Pardon me again:

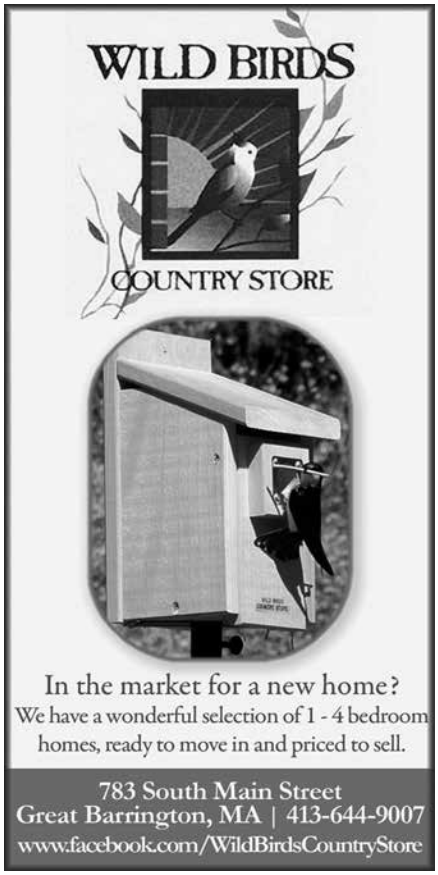
"Come on: just poop! *Concentrate!*"

He's sniffing. That's what he does. He reads the world through the braille of odor. He could sniff the varnish off an antique chest.

He was born to an abandoned mother somewhere down in Tennessee. Through a dog rescue outfit, Santa Claus brought him north seven years ago and gave him to our boy for Christmas. His name is Gunther (the dog, not the boy). He's calico-colored and funny looking. He looks at us with love and gratitude (again, the dog not the boy). If it weren't for us, he'd still be in Tennessee, probably lurking around a Waffle House and barking in a southern accent. You cannot explain this to him.

Despite all the stupid things I've done throughout the years—the time wasted, the wrong turns taken, the false starts—I'm a family man now. If I could only make the dog understand how good he and I have it, how life only gets worse beyond these boundary lines. There's food here. Lovely people. Warm beds. Decent views. Historically low thirty-year fixed interest rates. All I need him to do is to lie unleashed on the

Continued on page 16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Evening

You have watched the earth rise into the sky and cover the sun,
Lifting the trees and clouds before it until the day's cycle is done.

The shadows fatten on the growing dimness and sight goes from photo-sharp to watercolor-soft, blending separate things into one as the limit of our vision draws near,
there is a comfort here in the drawing in of the limits of our world, soon the darkness will flood against the window mirroring the scene within, then only the memory of what we wanted to see will be clear.

The fire putters about in the stove, it too is settling down for the night, drowsy with the days' work of building a hill of heat to coast down through the night,
it glows contentedly, saving its strength for the next day when it must work hard to outshine the daytime's bright light.

Even sound has dwindled down, the distant barking dog lies curled in sleep, silent but for the soft shuffling of his feet as he runs back through the day taking all the paths not taken,
the peace the long evenings in winter bring cannot be found in other seasons, we're given extra time to take the quiet inner journeys so we can discover ourselves when we waken.

The darkness that has made the woods a silent pond fills into the sky leaking out where the stars pierce through,
our thoughts and hopes are sifted by the starlit sky, the sands of confusion drift away on the night air and the remaining gems of light will guide us to what we must do.

There will be colder nights than this, when the darkness won't settle gently, but will have spent the day lurking in the corners boldly showing itself, diminishing the feeble light of day,
and storms will fill the trees leaning in the woodlot and whistle mockingly down the chimney at the stoves' efforts to keep the cold at bay.

These are days to come and we knew about them when we filled the shed with wood and planned the holiday dinner,
turn the pages of the calendar and see the shortness of this season, relish the sanctuary that it forces you to take while you watch the nights become thinner.

Take heart that this is the harmony of life, blend with it while it guides your spirit like an unseen ghost,
accept the rhythms that are around you and draw strength from knowing you will have what you need when you need it most.

—Stephen Cushing

"Our Stars, Ourselves..." *(from page 14)*

front porch like a paperweight helping to keep it all from blowing away.

Jeez, thank the Lord for engineered, moisture-resistant breathable fabrics. It's cold out here. Funny thing: In ancient times, if Santa brought me a dog for Christmas, it would be for one purpose only: skinning him and wearing him. And I look good in calico. You cannot explain that to Gunther. I've tried.

"*Poop! Now*!"

"Just a sec," he says. "I'm in the middle of something."

When he finally gets into the kangaroo position to do his thing, he looks at me, humiliated. We're both humiliated.

"Ya moron," I say, looking the other way.

If there was a Big Bang, what existed before the Big Bang? And did ancient man ever wish upon a star? He discovered fire. He manipulated metals. He tamed the earth and planted crops. If he wished upon a star, at what point did he realize he could wish for three more wishes?

But that's the problem, isn't it? We want more than what we've got. We cross boundaries. We trespass.

The dog is tangled in the leash now. The stars are tangled in the cosmos. The universe is expanding, and if there's a boundary somewhere out there, then what's on the other side of that boundary? For reasons only an ancient evening could explain, we're pulled, always and everywhere. And there isn't a dog fence strong enough.

—Felix Carroll

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Knox Gallery
Winter Community Exhibit

Please join us this Friday evening, December 4, from 6 to 7:30, for the opening reception of our community exhibit, *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air*. We are also pleased to be celebrating the Knox Gallery's fifth anniversary with this exhibit!

From our first exhibition, which was a selection of work by the artists who participated in Monterey Makers Day that year, our annual community shows have allowed a diverse group of artists to offer stimulating reflections of our community. As the gallery has evolved, we have reached for a broader geographic assortment of artists for the group, solo and curated exhibitions. We have been pleased to present artists from neighboring states—and even one from North Carolina—with our Monterey artists.

Participants in *4 Elements*, to date, are Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Michael Banner, Orlando Beach, Wendy Benjamin, Teresa Bills, Murray Bodin, Essy Shapiro Dean, Marcia C. Doelman, Karen Farkas, Josephine Freedman, Ellen Grenadier, Michelle Gillett, Christine Goldfinger, Meryl Wilen Greenfield, Brece Honeycutt, Max Husten, Nancy Johnson, Mary Kate Jordan, Tasja Keetman, Richard Kimball, Philip Knoll, Sue Knoll, Sophia Krans, Laraine Lippe, Nadia, Michael Marcus, Pauline Nault, Marilyn Orner, Kit Patten, Wendy Rabinowitz, David J. Richardson, Julie Shapiro, Anne Shatas, Rick Schatzberg, Rachel Vine, Kolleen Weinrich, MaryPaul Yates, and Cheryl Zellman.

Karen Farkas

Tellurian, *stained glass, ©Karen Farkas*

Our anniversary provides the perfect occasion for us to thank all the volunteers who make the gallery happen and keep it going, and the artists who exhibit. Knox Gallery would not be the lively Monterey arts center that it has become without the Monterey Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Monterey Library, which support the Knox Gallery, and we likewise acknowledge the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils, which underwrite our artists' talks. We especially commend and fully appreciate our fabulous library director, Mark Makuc, who has enthusiastically supported this venture from its inception, and at every turn. Most of all we appreciate the community of Monterey, and our loyal attendees of openings and artists' talks, who look forward to our presentations. We are ever grateful to purchasers of artwork, as the money from sales encourages artists to show at the Knox, and 25% of the invoiced price goes to support the library's programs.

Please join us this week, and for the many exciting programs we have planned in 2016. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Biomass Boiler Project
Gould Farm

For the last year and a half, Gould Farm has embarked on an epic bureaucratic, civil engineering, and renewable energy journey, and we are still months away from crossing the finish line.

Within the next two months, we will have a biomass heating plant serving the entire lower campus, powered completely by wood chips. It has been a collaborative process from the start, involving—deep breath— the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Massachussetts Clean Energy Center (MCEC), the Center for EcoTechnology (CET), two engineers, a plumbing contractor, a piping supplier who was a former steam pipe fitter, electrical contractors, Freddy Stevens from 413 Concrete, Eric Pederson, Roger Tryon (with his father, Dick, providing periodic supervision), and a biomass specialist, and that's not all!

Before diving into the process, and the specifics of our up-and-coming new system, we can't ignore the legacy of our past heating regime. Aptly named "The Beast," our old cordwood central boiler consumed anywhere between 200 to 250 cords of wood per heating season, requiring full feedings every four hours in the dead of winter. Furnace shifts were known as "Feeding The Beast." It was the sole source of heat for all farm team buildings on the lower campus—the shops, barns, and chicken coop. Gould Farm proudly states that, "We harvest hope," but for the farm team it was pretty much just wood all winter. Last season, the distribution system froze up a dozen or so times. Hours were spent in the attic of the dairy barn, with buckets of rags soaking in hot water, propane torches and hoses, with farm team members zipping back and forth to the chicken coop, which seemed to freeze a few times a month. Negative ten degrees on an ATV was a right of passage.

Maria Rundle

Out with the old...

Then last spring, through the ever enthusiastic David Cash, we heard of a pilot grant program through the Mass Clean Energy Center and Mass Department of Energy Resources for biomass heating plants and distribution systems for nearby buildings. With the help of the state, the intrepid leadership of Lisanne Finston, our executive director, and Wayne Burkhart, our agricultural director, we applied and were granted $260,000 towards design and construction of a long-held dream for the farm.

Lisanne Finston

...and in with the new. Wayne, Mark, and Colby, all smiles.

So why has this taken a year and a half, you might ask? There is an old adage Wayne is fond of repeating that goes something like this: "Committee work is like mating elephants; there is a lot of huffing and stomping, things go on at a high level, and it takes two years to get results." We have numerous partners, all with valuable input, including the wonderful folks at MCEC, MDAR, and DOER, who all helped us deal with what they called "the glaring thermal inefficiencies

Continued on page 18

TKG The Kinderhook Group

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Mark Little

Alf Pedersen and Lanny Lanoue diligently supervise the project.

Mark Little

Lisanne is eager to be an executive chip-kicker!

"Biomass Boiler Project" *(from page 17)*

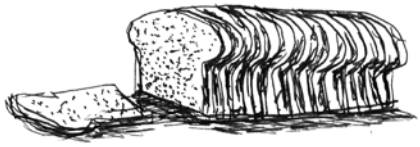
of our structures." We are building for the next one hundred years, and doing so requires deep thought, careful design, and endless communication. To continue the metaphor further, what was conceived as a dream has gestated into a beautiful and revolutionary addition for the farm team.

So when this is all done, what will we have? For those of you who have stopped by the Harvest Barn of late, you have surely seen the new foundation. The old 24 by 32-foot woodshed will be for wood chip storage, where chip vendors will off-load. The addition off the back toward the Gould Road side will be the wood chip feed room, and then there is a 3-foot drop in grade to the boiler room. The 1 million BTU boiler is sized to meet approximately 95 to 100% of peak heating demands, including domestic hot water in all but two of the eight buildings being served by the new system. The two staff residences by the Harvest Barn and the adjoining greenhouse will now be part of the distribution system. The existing heating systems will be maintained as back-up heat sources.

With a two-stage combustion process, and flue gas cleaner, the new boiler will operate at over 90% efficiency with almost no emissions. The new system will replace approximately 2,500 gallons of fuel oil a year, not to mention the dreaded 2 a.m. furnace shift and time splitting wood in the wind tunnel of a shed.

I will spare you the rest of the wonky details, but next time you're over at the Harvest Barn, grab one of us, and we will give a quick tour. This system brings to fruition decades of dreaming, months of design and collaboration, and the impending weeks of what we hope will be rapid construction. This has been a true community effort, embodying the true spirit of Gould Farm as we look to the future of harvesting more hope and, hopefully, less wood.

—Mark Little
Assistant Farm Team Manager



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Wildlife Report

Mid-October to Mid-November
Birds, Bears, Moose, and More

The wildlife reports have been coming in steadily, from Amy Goldfarb's "Majestic Great Blue Heron" to the glorious male cardinal in our birdfeeder here on East Hupi. In the mammals department, Don and Ellen Coburn of Beartown Mountain Road wrote that their son Jeff and his friend saw a big male moose in the middle of their road, about 6:30 p.m., in early November. "They had to slow down for the moose, which had large antlers and kept walking in front of them while turning back and looking at them from time to time for about ten minutes," before walking off into the woods.

Later in the month, a moose on Route 57 stopped the New Marlborough school bus near the Monterey line. Suzanne Sawyer wrote that her daughter, Shira, was on the bus and brought home the news. Mari Enoch's son Philip was on the bus, too. According to Philip, this moose was very large indeed.

In mid-November, Lizbeth Sanchez of Griswold Road saw a mink about 7:30 a.m., circling the house. It disappeared under the front porch.

George Emmons called to say there have been two bald eagles seen at the Fish Hatchery, and Suzanne Sawyer saw an eagle, too, which flew over headed for Hartsville. Eagles do love fish, hatchery farmed or wild caught.

Late in October, Ed Salsitz wrote that he was welcomed home to his place on Beartown Mountain Road by a big flock of turkeys. He sent in a photo of the great creatures *(at right)*. Also around this time, Alex Tinari and two friends saw "a particularly pretty ruffed grouse, very speckled white and black with a handsome crest, near the south end of Fairview Road. It was bobbing along, and characteristically indifferent to us," Alex writes. Ruffed grouse can also called be called partridges.

It was right about this time that Amy Goldfarb reported the great blue heron in the fields by Route 23 and Fairview Road, which has been seen and is clearly "unperturbed by feline Cat Stevens." Fairview Road is the last resting place for a large spotted salamander, says Alex Tinari, "at least eight inches and fat…more of a very dark army green than grey, with very bright orange spots." This salamander had recently been killed by a car.

George and Jan Emmons were visited by a bear that left a large calling card on their lawn. This bear had recently been feasting upon apples, according to our scientist, who examined the evidence.

Here on East Hupi, we have started up the birdfeeder, after a year off from it. The birds had not forgotten us, and we even have a cardinal, a rare sight in these mature woods. Joe Baker saw a large red-tailed hawk along our road. It went from tree-top to tree-top and then off over the homestead garden, not stopping by the house for birdseed.

Thank you for all your notes and calls. Keep up the news of the wild.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385; bmca@berkshire.net.

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New Marlboro Road
Bridge Replacement, Again

What a fall for the Monterey highway department. Almost immediately after completing the major culvert replacement project at the junction of River Road and Route 23, the focus shifted to the bridge on New Marlboro Road. In July the town had hurriedly rented, and subsequently bought, a one-lane temporary bridge, which was placed over the earlier bridge built in 1984. It was hoped that this bridge would buy the town time to investigate and implement a permanent replacement so the folks south of the bridge would not be abandoned in the interim.

It very quickly became apparent that this one-lane bridge made it difficult for large trucks to navigate the turns to or from the southern portion of New Marlboro Road. With select board member Kenn Basler leading the charge, the town got a crash course in the process and requirements of bridge engineering and construction. Some of what was learned is that the state department of transportation had little to offer in the way of a cost-effective and quick solution.

The new bridge is a stock design produced by the same company in Pennsylvania that made the one-lane temporary bridge. It arrived in three frame segments, with guardrail posts already welded on. The segments were set onto bolts in the new concrete abutments, and then bolted to each other. The deck is made of sections of gang-nailed 2x6 pressure-treated lumber, which, should it be necessary, will be easily removed and replaced. The bridge is rated for loads in excess of forty-five tons, heavier than the forty-ton limit for standard over-the-road trucks.

The steel work and bridge decking cost the town $57,000, and it is hoped that the balance of the work will still have the bridge costing no more than $100,000, or one-eighth of what the state suggested it might cost.

The key to bridge longevity is smart (reduced) salt usage. That is the biggest killer of bridges. The 1984 bridge that it replaced should have lasted longer then it did, with salt playing a big part in its premature demise. The town is aware of other bridges that may have shorter life spans due to salt usage.

—Stephen Moore
Photos by Steven Weisz

The temporary bridge moved aside.

South abutment formed up.

Steel bridge sections with welded guardrail posts.

The gang-nailed pressure treated wood decking sections.

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Pouring the concrete for the south abutment

North and south abutments completed, awaiting the bridge sections to be laid on

The south ramp formed and the rebar laid in

The bridge was completed and opened in time for Thanksgiving, as hoped.

Berkshire Botanical Garden's
Holiday Marketplace
Saturday & Sunday, December 5th & 6th
Join us as the Garden's Exhibit Hall
is transformed into a twinkling market
sure to delight the senses
and inspire the holiday spirit.
At the intersection of Routes 183 and 102, Stockbridge, MA
Doors open at 10am. Admission is Free.
berkshirebotanical.org

Berkshire Botanical Garden
Holiday Marketplace

The Berkshire Botanical Garden's Holiday Marketplace will take place on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6. The Holiday Marketplace is known for its wreaths and tabletop decorations crafted by the staff and volunteers of the garden, as well as for its local craft vendors and artisanal foodstuffs from local purveyors. This year, the Garden has added a basket station where shoppers can create one-of-a-kind gift baskets, complete with cellophane wrapping. Admission is free. The Marketplace will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the garden's Exhibit Hall, off the intersection of Routes 180 and 103 in Stockbridge.

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2015: A New Direction

A little over eight months ago, I sat at the BWI airport, sipping a glass of wine and waiting for a nonstop flight to Seattle for a two-week vacation. It was my last day of work at the Learning First Alliance, and fittingly, we'd had a board meeting where I received public acknowledgment for my work from both my boss and the board members. I was ready for my new position, the result of a hectic job-search process that at times felt confusing and uncertain. I had to move on, but in many cases, I was applying for positions that made sense. That didn't mean I was particularly excited about the opportunity; a new job is a big ask in today's job market.

I had been interviewing for two positions and received an offer from one. In response, the other organization made a competing offer for a newly created position because they wanted me. I didn't have quite enough experience for the position I applied for, but I put forward a strong enough skill set and was a good enough fit that they made a jump for me. It was an exciting and validating experience. "The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) works to create equity, opportunity, and a dynamic democracy in partnership with high-impact base-building organizations, organizing alliances, and progressive unions. CPD strengthens our collective capacity to envision and win an innovative pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial, and economic justice agenda."

I work for Local Progress, a strategic network of progressive local municipal officials run out of CPD, comprised of hundreds of local elected officials from around the country committed to a strong economy, equal justice, livable cities, and effective government. The mission is to build a network that can share and help push pragmatic progressive policies for working families at the city level. Change is happening at the city level, not in Washington, as many of you are probably painfully aware. Cities can and are leading on many progressive policy areas that are having a direct impact on the quality of life for low-income workers and families.

As their program and membership associate, I am responsible for driving the policy, program, and membership work (among other things). I get to work with council members, staff, school board members, and mayors nationwide. In late October, we held our fourth annual convening in Los Angeles, where we brought one hundred members together for two days to share best practices, build connections, and learn about policy and movements for change happening in communities across the country. We want our members in cities across the country to share lessons and legislation, building solidarity for a new progressive narrative at the local level that drives our national dialogue.

For the past few years, I've developed a unique expertise in education, one that is serving my current work very well as I work to organize progressive school board members to pass policies to support strong public education for all kids. My work in education helped me build a network I can reach out to in this new work. When I took this position earlier this year, I thought of myself as a generalist, and that was because I was eager to move back into the progressive space and help build meaningful infrastructure. I was ready to leave education, but interestingly education found me, and in a way that I always wanted to engage but never had the opportunity to. It means the past three years have had professional value to me in a non-placeholder way. And for that, I'm grateful.

The holiday season is here and I'm really looking forward to my time at home. It's time off, and I can be with family and friends and not be attached to my email (sort of). I need the down time so I can think and execute at a high level in a job that is complex, interesting, and fun—as well as exhausting. I've found an interesting outlet, and a place to learn, grow, and invest in something I am passionate about. It means that the stakes are higher, and I have to fight harder for a work-life balance. And if my past job taught me anything, it's that it's important to be more than your job and have friends and a community. I won't give that up. I'm very lucky that I currently feel like I have it all. I feel like for the first time in a while, I'm meant to do something. I may be able to look back and see this as a defining moment in my life, which shaped the contributions I was able to make. That's an amazing and terrifying thought.

I wish you all a wonderful, happy and healthy holiday season and the best for the start of 2016.

—Tarsi Dunlop

ॐ

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By stages imperceptible and sure,
Blend elements diverse in thaw and freeze,
And fix them in some newer ligature.

Now this exuberant mix begins to rise
To take its part in photosynthesis,
and every integrant will change its guise
And transubstantiate to edifice.

Milkweed pod, Maureen Banner

The metals lend their strength to cellulose
As stem, and leafing out, as fruit and flower,
But slow entropic forces will dispose
That what goes up must come down in a shower.

So leaf and insect, nest and twig and branch,
End their seasons, join the effluent fall,
An endlessly increasing avalanche,
For more the spate the more the tree is tall.

Then finally, the trunk itself must yield
Back to the ground the earth's constituent parts,
And in that ever richer nutrient field
Many another living fountain starts.

—David McAllester

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Fixing the Vote

What do most people do on election day, year after year, across the United States?

Overwhelmingly they treat it like any other day—go to work, head to classes, go shopping, have lunch with friends, commute to and from their offices, etc. Notice I haven't mentioned voting. Because more often than not they don't. (Millions are not even registered to vote.) Ask them to account for this abrogation of responsibility and you'll get a range of excuses. *I forgot it was election day. Couldn't find the time. My vote won't make a difference. Why encourage corrupt politicians?*

It saddens me when I enter a polling place and encounter a cluster of election workers sitting around idly, some even nodding off. That's because "voters" apparently have better things to do than to show up.

Voter turnout has been trending downward most everywhere, especially in primaries and local off-year elections. Along with other ailments plaguing our political system, this anemic level of participation is particularly worrisome. Among other consequences, it undermines claims that we are a robust democracy and diminishes the authority of our leaders who often are the choices of a small minority of eligible voters. Many explanations have been put forward to account for voter indifference and absenteeism, including corruption on high and down below, gerrymandered districts, and uncompetitive election contests.

Would compulsory voting remedy the situation? Other nations, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore employ it, and, as a result, generate large turnouts. It would, among other potential benefits, confer greater political legitimacy on the winners, prevent the disenfranchisement of disadvantaged groups, and no doubt save campaign funds that otherwise flow into getting-out-the-vote efforts. It might also accelerate the current movement to make voting easier and more convenient.

But don't hold your breath. This is America. Compulsion is not our thing (though there are notable exceptions). Besides, the Supreme Court would likely rule that freedom of speech protects the right not to speak (i.e., vote).

So, what I propose is paying people to vote—"Bucks for Ballots!" Why not provide such an incentive in order to revitalize our political system? (Discount coupons would probably not work here; nor would tax credits, because they lack the allure of immediate gratification.) It's a small price to pay. The details have to be worked out of course. How's $25 a vote (adjusted periodically to reflect cost-of-living increases)? There'd be a cash machine located at each polling site. Once you cast your vote, you could receive a card. You'd swipe it and out would come a twenty- and a five-dollar bill. Let's also consider a bonus after an individual votes in five consecutive elections. How do we pay for this? Public financing of elections, of course—pay for campaign expenses and cover the cost of ballots cast as well.

It should work, could "nudge" people to the polling booth. Families, for example, could pull in some cool cash for just a few moments of their time. Of course, there will be objections, but if our major concern today is the pernicious influence of "Big Money" in our political system, maybe this experiment in "petty cash" can redress the balance.

—Richard Skolnik

❊

Dennis J. Downing

Attorney at Law

❊

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Maureen Banner

Frank D'Amato and Michael Banner—veterans of two different conflicts—together on Veterans Day.

November Contributors

We're sinking into the dark days of the year, while our need for, and appreciation of, contributions remains bright!

Thank you.

Jane & Tolbert McAfee
Nancy Kalodner
Michael Heller
Judith Friedman
Michael & Elizabeth Germain

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, December 7 and 21, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, December 8, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesday, December 9 and 23, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, December 10, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, December 2, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, December 10, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, December 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Town hall will be closed Friday, December 25, for Christmas, and Friday, January 1, for New Years.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
For general inquires, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Dept.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Dept. (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Steven Weisz

Monterey's new police cruiser.

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings, 4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Friday, December 4: Knox Gallery. *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air*, a community exhibit, opens from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 16.

Saturday, December 5:

Monterey hockey rink assembly, 9:30 a.m., at the pavillion behind the fire house.

Holiday Sale, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 11 to 4 p.m. See page 3.

Tuesday, December 8: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Thursday, December 10:

Free blood pressure clinic, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m.

Planning Board hearing on SDU bylaw, 7 p.m., town hall meeting room. See page 4.

Saturday, December 12: Lake Garfield Preservation District organizational meeting, 10 a.m., church basement. See page 4.

Tuesday, December 15: Berkshire County Beekeepers informational meeting on choosing equipment. 5 p.m., Mason Library, Main Street, Great Barrington. See page 14 of November *News*.

Wednesday, December 16: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., in church basement. See page 13.

Saturday, December 19: Lenox Contra Dance—Holiday Dance, from 5 to 11 p.m. Live music by N'oreaster, with calling by Katie Heine. Potluck supper from 7 to 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. lenoxcontradance.org

Sunday, December 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Tuesday, December 22:Winter Solstice. See page 9.

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 8.

Monday, December 28: Adult book group discussion. *Agent Zig Zag*, by Ben MacIntyre. 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

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Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

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Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Despite the blustery weather, the crew executed some careful craftsmanship installing the guard rails on the new New Marlboro Road bridge. Photos by Steven Weisz.

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Town Reporter.....Jill Pajka
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen
Assistant Treasurer.....F.C.

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 3,11,18,20,23, George Emmons, p. 9;
Bonner McAllester, p. 12;

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